IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA NORFOLK DIVISION

CASE NO. 2:22-cv-00552-MSD-LRL

WHAT HURTS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

VOLVO PENTA OF THE AMERICAS, LLC,

Defendant.

THE VIDEOTAPED
ZOOM REMOTE DEPOSITION
AHILEA (LEE) GRAMMAS

DATE TAKEN: April 10, 2024

TIME: 11:06 a.m.

PLACE: U.S. Legal Support - Remotely DEPONENT LOCATION: (Witness was in his vehicle)

Cincinnati, Ohio

Stenographically Reported By:
LYNDA ROYER, R.P.R.
Registered Professional Reporter

U.S. LEGAL SUPPORT www.uslegalsupport.com

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APPEARANCES

ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF:

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ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT:

Joshua C. Carpenter, Esq. K&L Gates 200 S. Biscayne Boulevard Suite 3900 Miami, Florida 33131 joshua.carpenter@klgates.com

ALSO PRESENT:

Michael Hollander, Videographer U.S. Legal Support

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1	Q. Do you know whether Brent Loring ever reviewed
2	that warranty document?
3	A. Probably not, knowing us.
4	Q. Okay. Would you agree with me that submersion
5 =	of the engines would be a significant event in the life
6	of those engines?
7	A. Yeah, if they were underwater.
8	Q. Yeah.
9 _	A. Yeah.
10	Q. And again, I'm not even trying to quibble with
11	you about what the word "submerged" means. Just you
12	would agree if engines go underwater, that's bad, right?
13	A. Yeah. Obviously, we all know that.
14	Q. All right. I want to provide just a little bit
15	of context. I know you said you weren't exactly sure
16	when you started talking about the replacement engines
17	during this time process. I'm going to show you what's
18	going to be marked as Exhibit 2 today.
19	(Thereupon, Defendant's Exhibit Number 2, Brent
20	Loring letter, was marked for identification.)
21	Q. Can you see this document up on the screen?
22	A. It just loaded. Yeah, I can see it.
23	Q. Okay. And it's I'll represent to you this
24	is a letter that was written by Brent Loring. It's got
25	it's on his TruStaff letterhead to Connor Retzke and

28

1	camera and you're maybe driving, but if you look at
2	the camera and you see him speaking
3	THE WITNESS: I'm not driving.
4	THE COURT REPORTER: You just need you can't
5	speak when he's talking. Thanks.
6	THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.
7	Q. Okay. I want to talk a little bit more about
8	the context for what was occurring in the settlement
9	discussions on the date of the salvage incident which is,
10	again, February 25th, 2021. Let me show you what I'll
11	mark as Exhibit 3 which I'll represent is screenshots of
12	text messages between you and Tony Kelleher.
13	(Thereupon, Defendant's Exhibit Number 3, Text
14	message chain, was marked for identification.)
15	Q. Okay. Can you see that up on the screen?
16	A. Yep, I can see it.
17	Q. And I'll this is a 33-page document, but
18	I'll scroll to the the more relevant time period.
19	Okay?
20	MR. WAGNER: Yeah. If you could just call out
21	the dates on on that, that would be good.
22	Q. Yeah. So this one, this text chain starts and
23	you can see here that it's that's Tony Kelleher at the
24	top; is that right, Mr. Grammas?
25	A. Yes.

1 _	Q. And then his text bubble on this first page
2	says, "Good morning, Lee." Is it your understanding this
3	is the capture from your phone for the text messages
4	between you and Tony Kelleher?
5	A. Yeah.
6	Q. Okay. And it looks like the first one we've
7	got, it is from June 18th, 2020. Do you see that up here
8	at the top?
9	A. Yep.
10	Q. Okay. And again, I'm not going to focus on
11	stuff way back in June 2020. I'm just making sure we're
12	on the same page about what these are.
13	A. Got it.
14	Q. Okay. So let me scroll down here.
15	A. Oh, we texted more than I thought.
16	Q. Okay. So now I'm on Page 16 of this document
17	<u>-</u>
	which kind of starting here, February 12th, 2021, I
18	believe that's the first text exchange between you and
19	Tony after that demand letter we just looked at. Does
20	that appear to be correct?
21	A. January 1st, yeah.
22	Q. Okay. And again, we don't need to look at the
23	specifics of these, but suffice it to say you're having a
24	back and forth with Tony scheduling phone calls and just
25	sort of discussing this engine replacement issue during

1	this time period; is that a fair description?
2	A. Yep.
3	Q. Okay. And then the next several pages are
4	occurring from February 19th up through February 23rd all
5	discussing the negotiations for this settlement
6	agreement; is that fair?
7	A. Yep.
8	Q. Okay. And in fact, up to Page 23 here, we've
9	got a text, February 25th, 2021 at 10 a.m., so that's
10	even the same day of the salvage incident, right?
11	A. Yep.
12	Q. Okay.
13	MR. WAGNER: In the morning, right?
14	MR. CARPENTER: Yes. It's 10 a.m., so I'm not
15	alleging that that occurred after the salvage
16	incident. Same one.
17	Q. So would it be fair to say you had a pretty
18	open line of communication with Tony Kelleher around the
19	time of this salvage incident?
20	A. Well, yes and no, because I was really angry
21	because he wasn't communicating correctly, and in that
22	time, too, he he said something verbally on the phone
23	that he didn't come through before that, but yes.
24	Q. And what did he say?
25	A. We were going back and forth in the

1	CERTIFICATE OF OATH
2	
3 4 5	STATE OF FLORIDA)) ss. COUNTY OF BROWARD)
6	I, Lynda Royer, Registered Professional
7	Reporter, Notary Public, State of Florida, certify that
8	LEE GRAMMAS appeared before me via Zoom on April 10, 2024
9	and was duly sworn.
10	
11	Signed this 11th day of April 2024
12	Lunder Koyer
13	
14	Lynda Royer, R.P.R.
15	Registered Professional Reporter
16	Notary Public - State of Florida
17	Commission #HH 122826
18	Expires: August 27, 2025
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	
3	STATE OF FLORIDA)
4) ss. COUNTY OF BROWARD)
5	
6	I, Lynda Royer, Registered Professional
7	Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did
8	stenographically report the deposition of LEE GRAMMAS;
9	Pages 1 through 85; that a review of the transcript was
10	requested; and that the transcript is a true and complete
11	record of my stenographic notes.
12	
13	I further certify that I am not a relative,
14	employee, attorney, or counsel for any of the parties,
15	parties' attorneys or counsel connected with the action,
16	nor am I financially interested in the action.
17	
18	DATED this 11th day of April 2024.
19	
20	Lunda Kanar
21	
22	Lynda Royer, R.P.R.
23	Registered Professional Reporter
24	
25	



Defendant's Exhibit
04/10/24
2, Grammas
Lynda Royer, RPR

January 15, 2021

Dear Conner & Tony

Happy New Year!

I am writing this letter to reiterate my experience as an owner of a 2019 60' Midnight Express with Seven Marine Engines. I purchased this vessel October 2019 with the confidence of a Manufacturer Warranty that would last until October 2021. To say the least, this has been the worst experience of my life of any major purchase:

- engines breaking down repeatedly
- engines taken apart and rebuilt
- authorized Seven Marine mechanics performing work that are subsequently unauthorized to perform the same work in the present- most likely from inadequate prior work performance.
- unusable boating hours while the boat was "in the shop"
- hundred thousand dollars plus (both in repair costs and rental costs while the boat was inoperable)
- Etc. Etc. (please review the service history in your records)

To say the least, this nightmare does not end. I know that this feeling of anguish, frustration, inconvenience, disappointment and complete outrage is not tolerable nor acceptable of the strong brand name that Seven Marine carries with it. No customer should have to deal with even half of the issues that I have experienced over the course of the past 15 months!

I will say my experience and relationship with Tony, Amanda and Conner has been respectable but the reality is that we are dealing with faulty products. I have since purchased a 76" Sanlorenzo with Volvo engines from the CEO, Marco Segato, so that I can confidently hit the open water.

I am requesting for full reimbursement for these engines so that we as customers can have a product that works properly and is as dependable as the founders originally intended.

I look forward to your response.

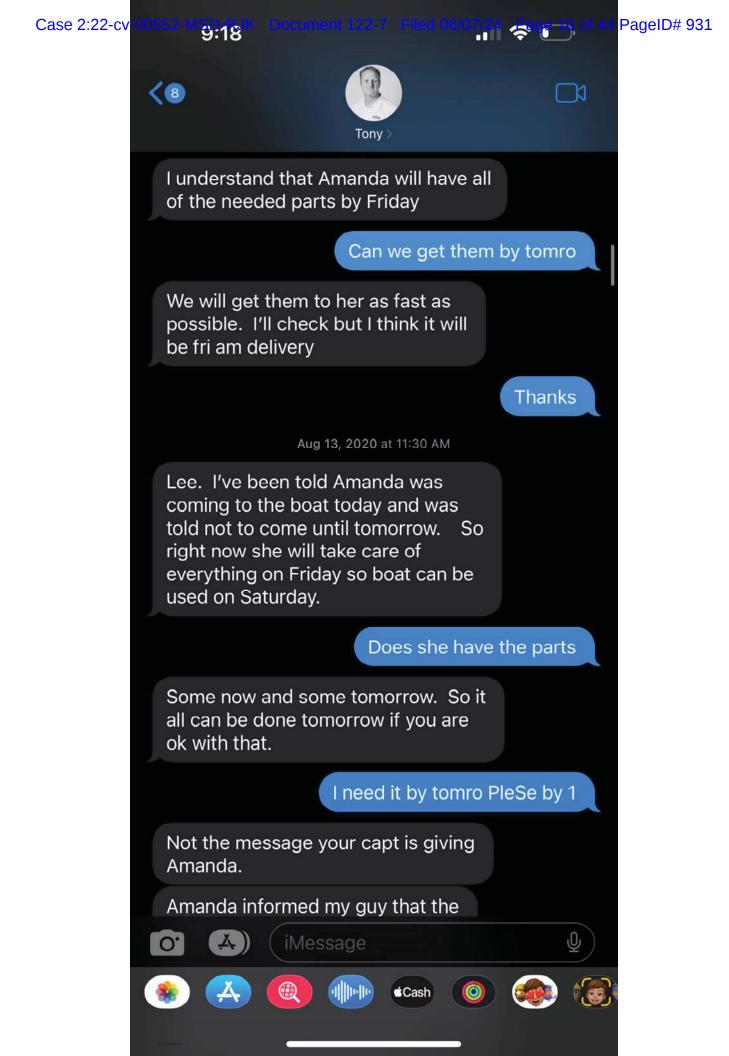
Respectfully

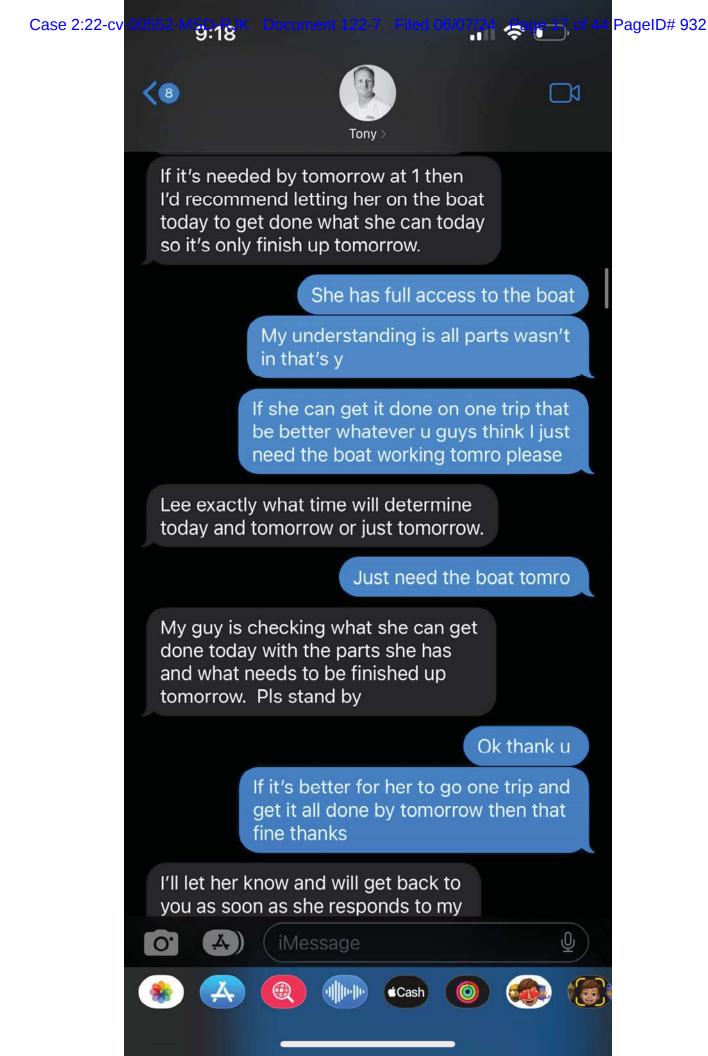
Brent Loring

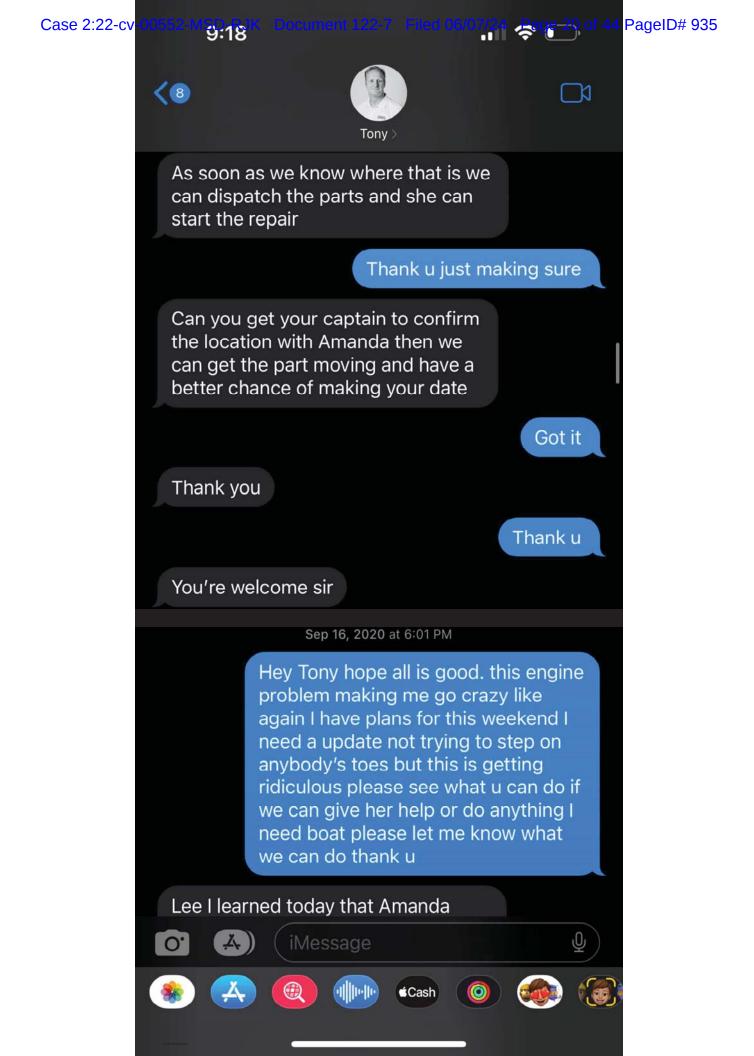
Chairman/ CEO

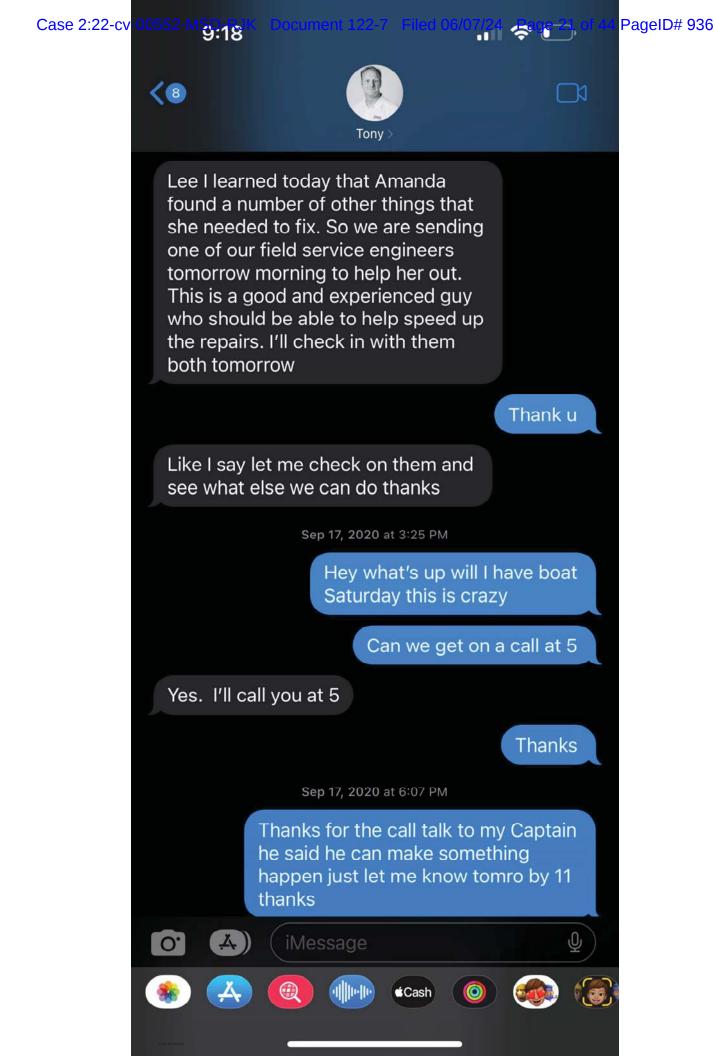


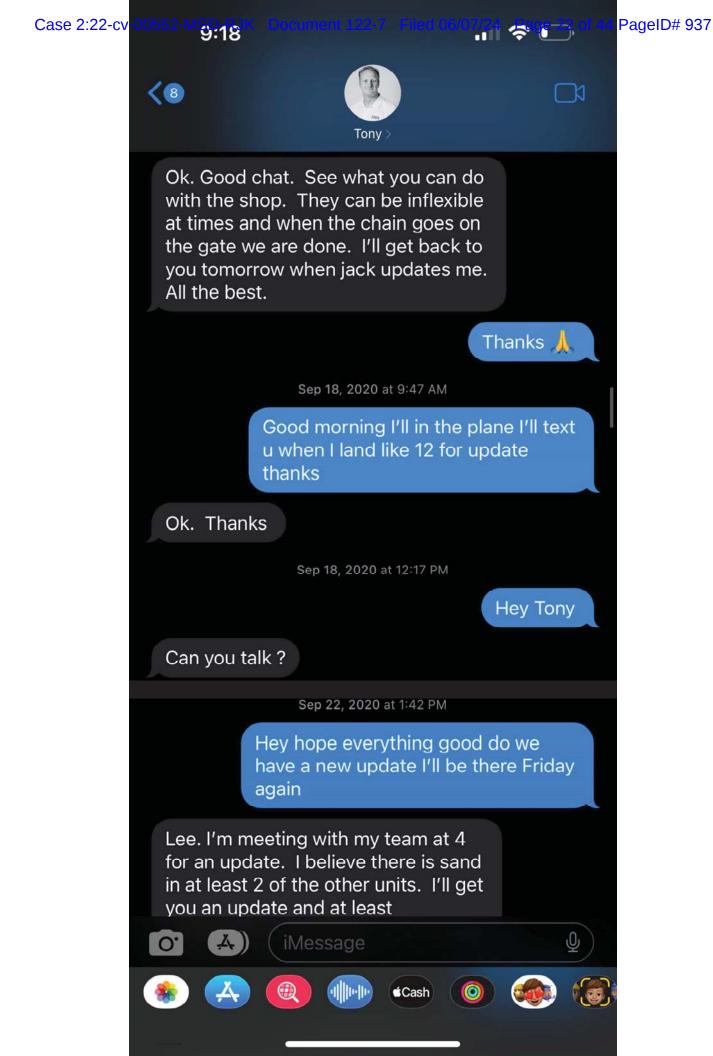


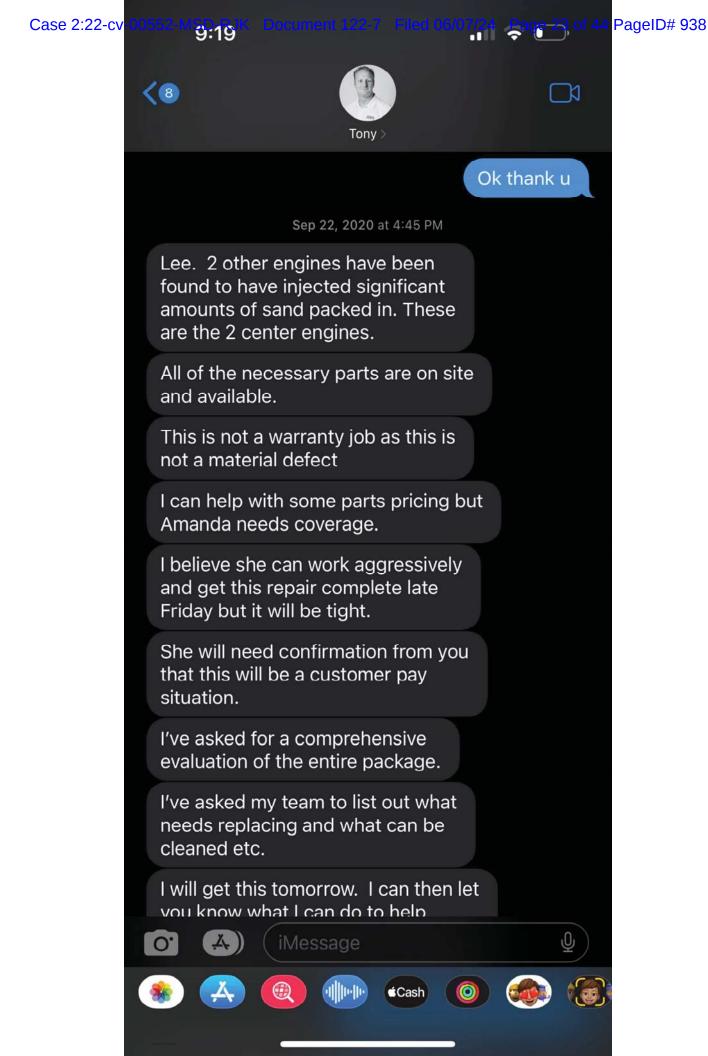


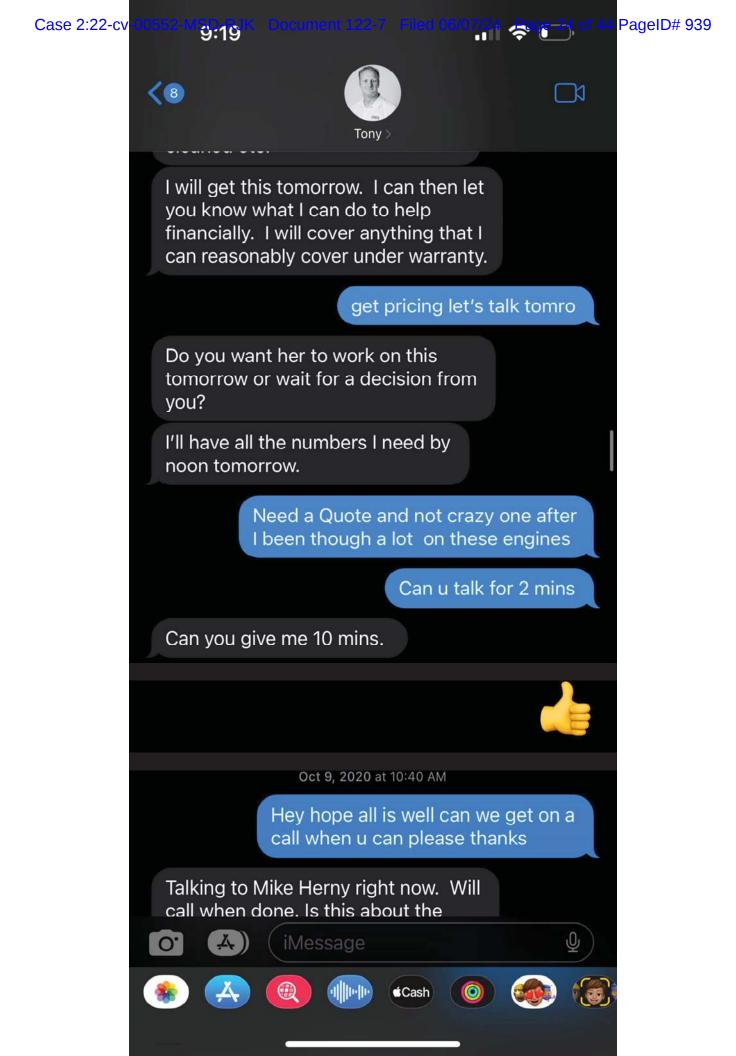


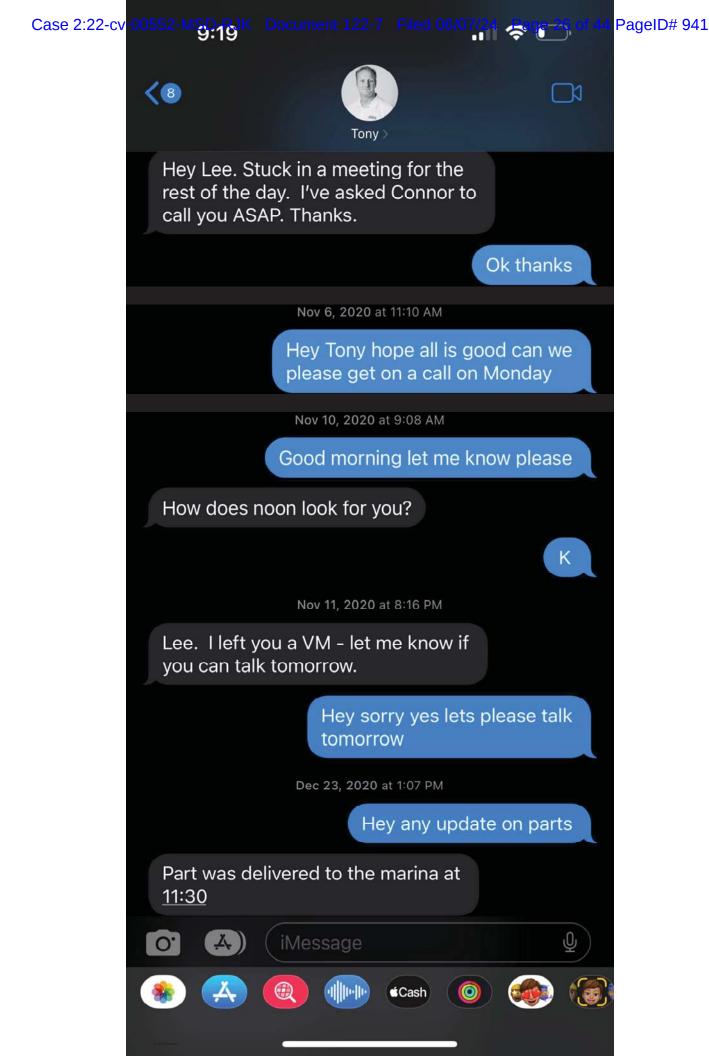


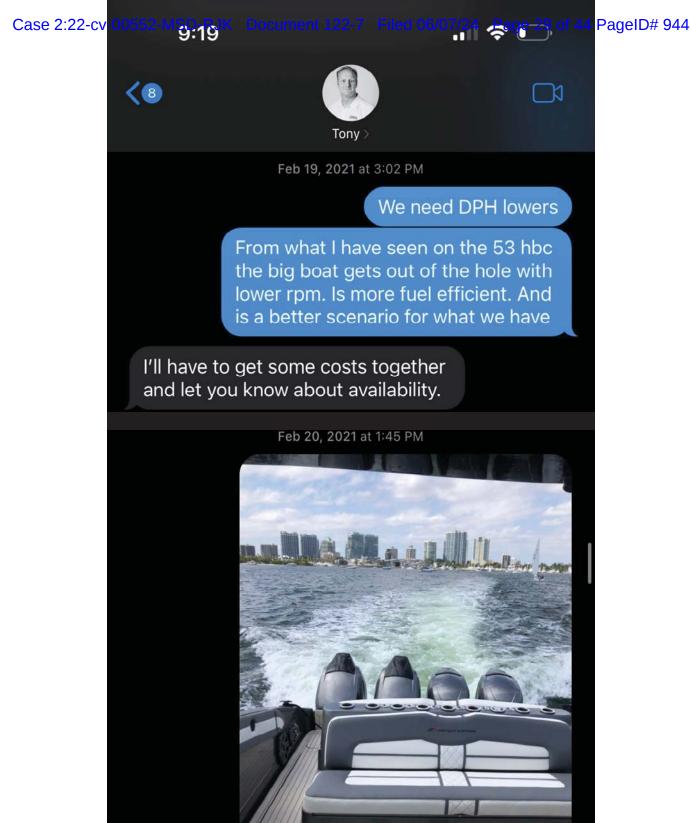




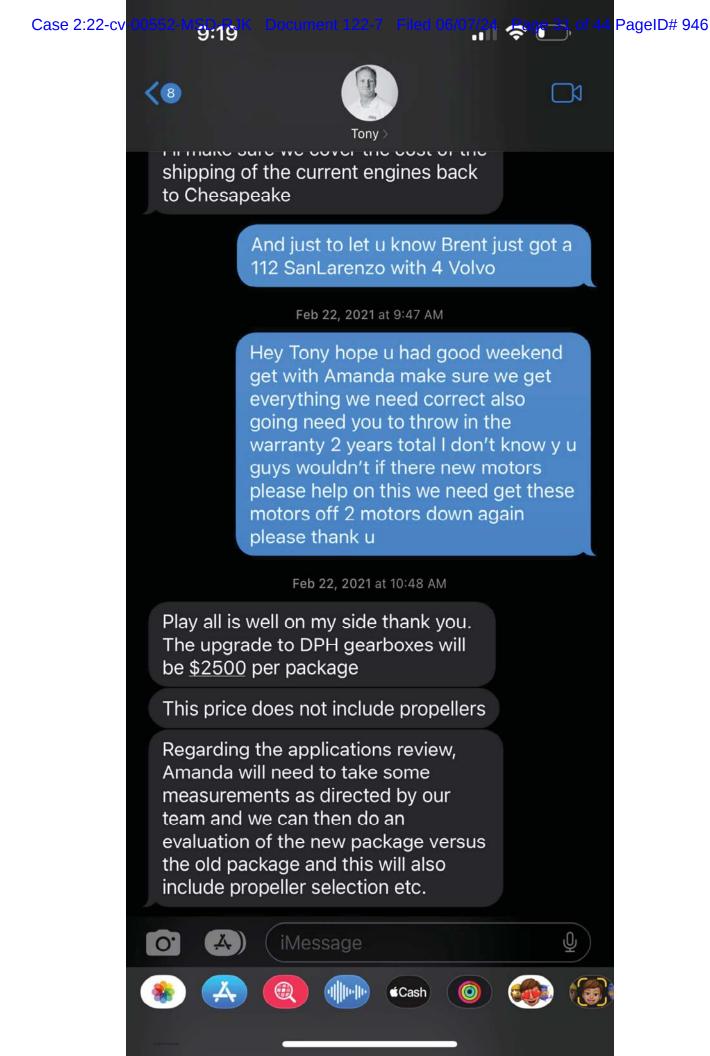


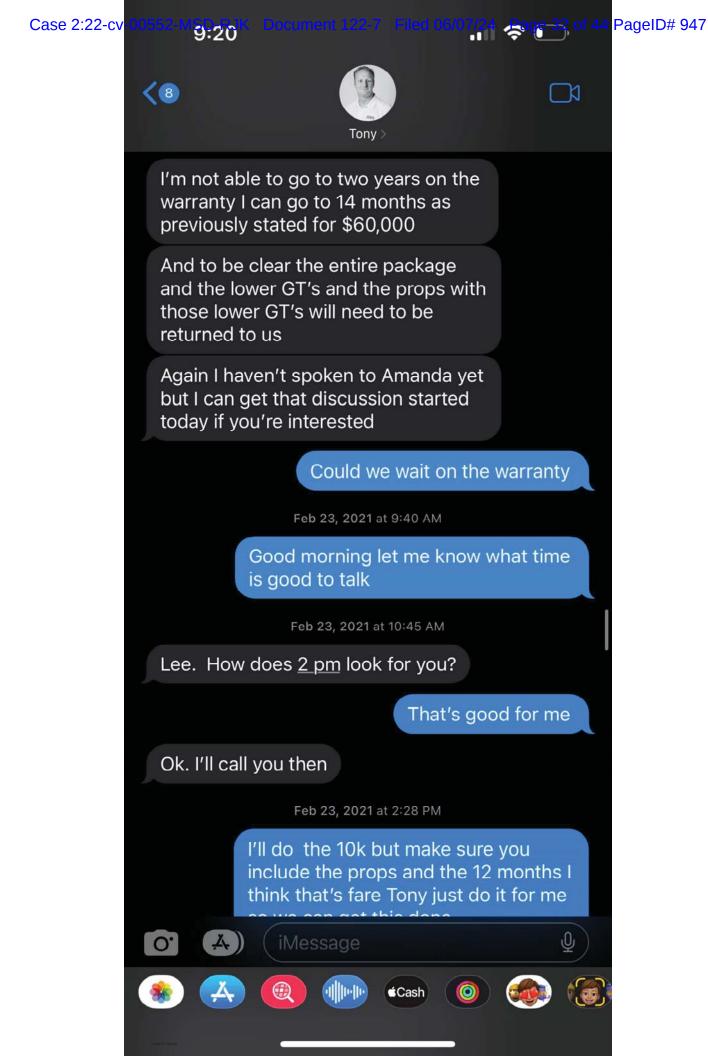


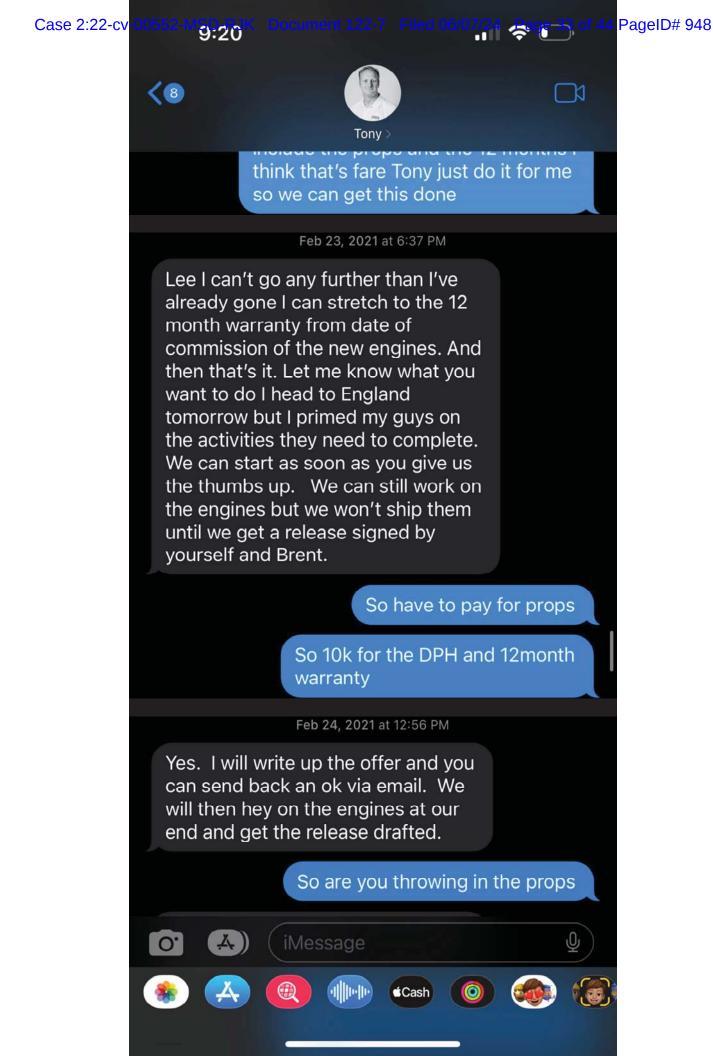


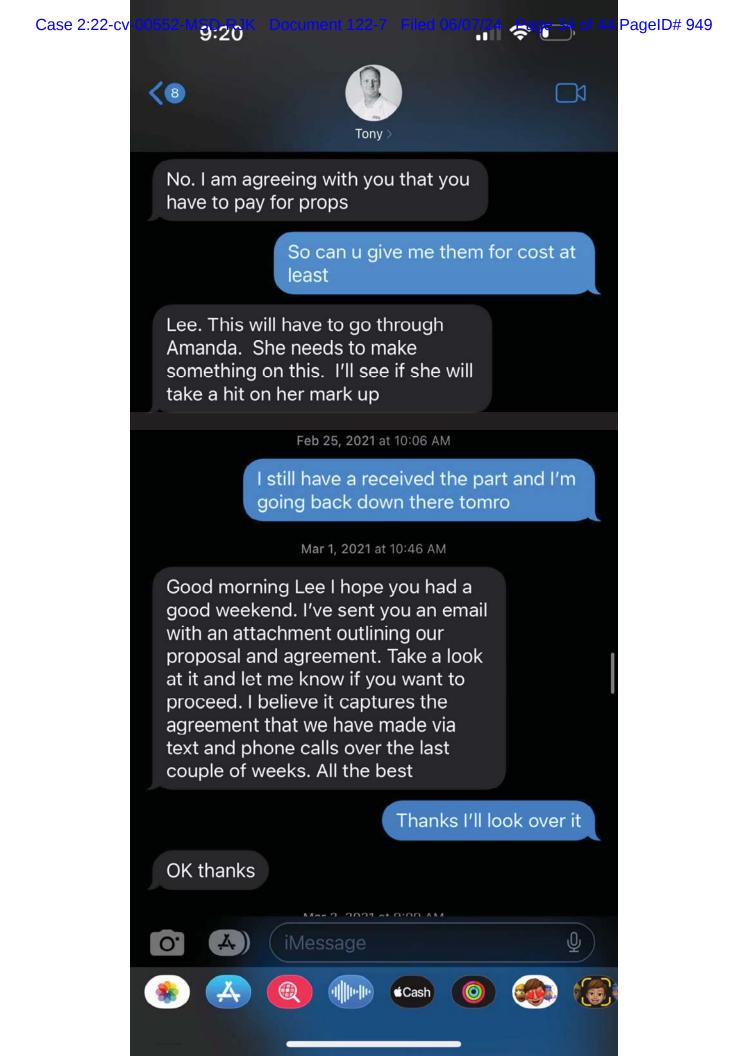


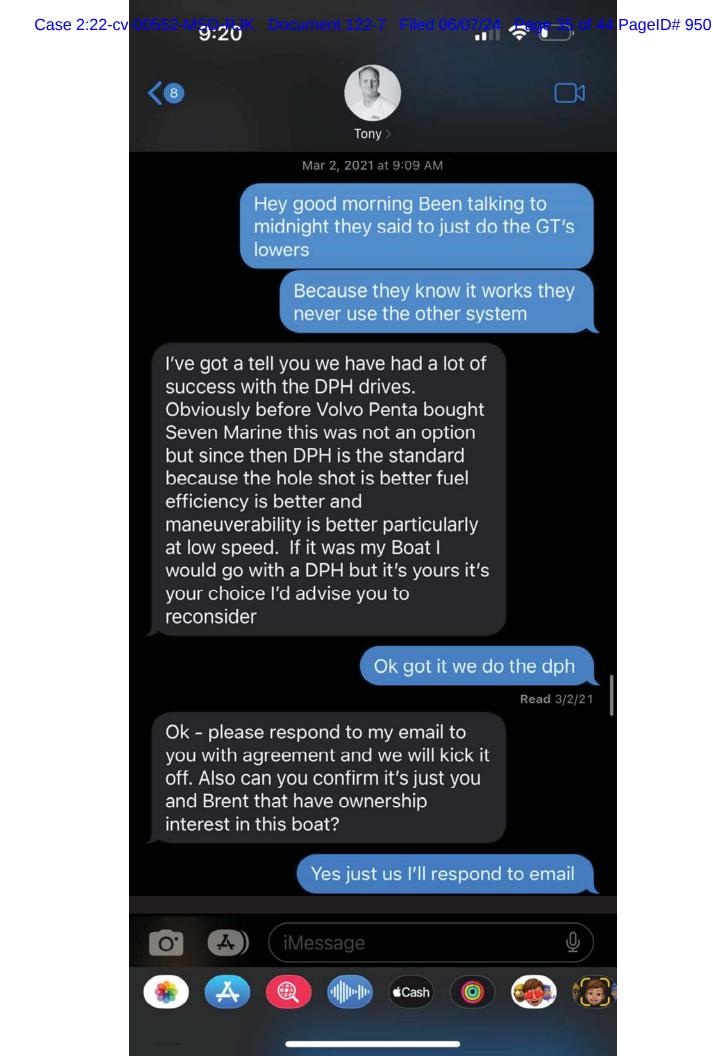


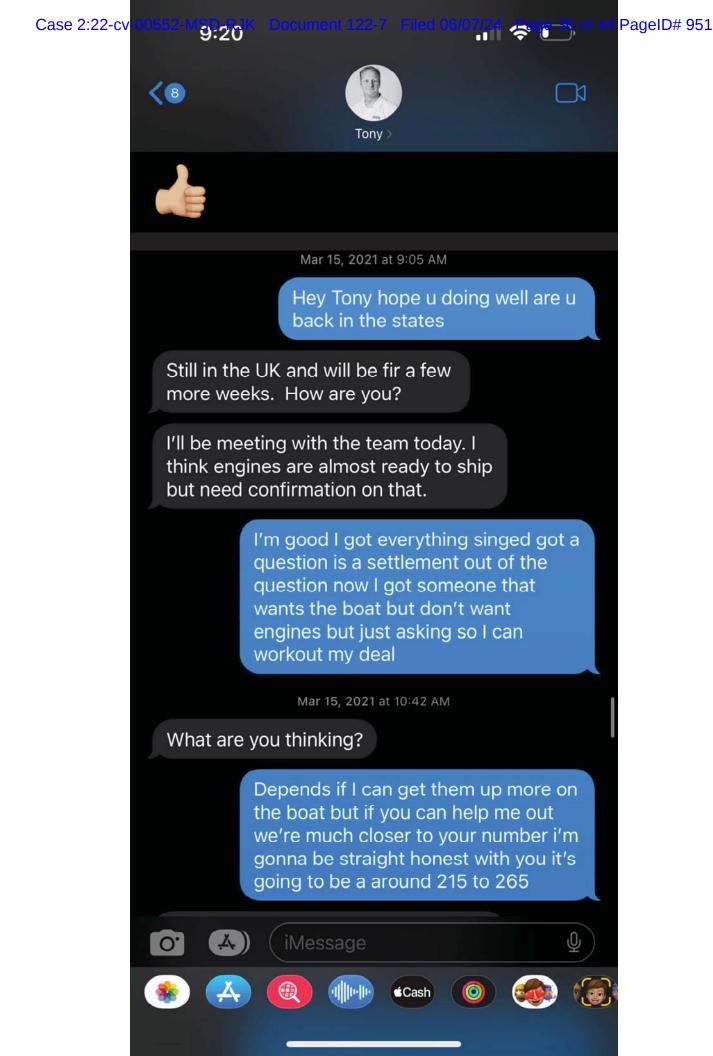


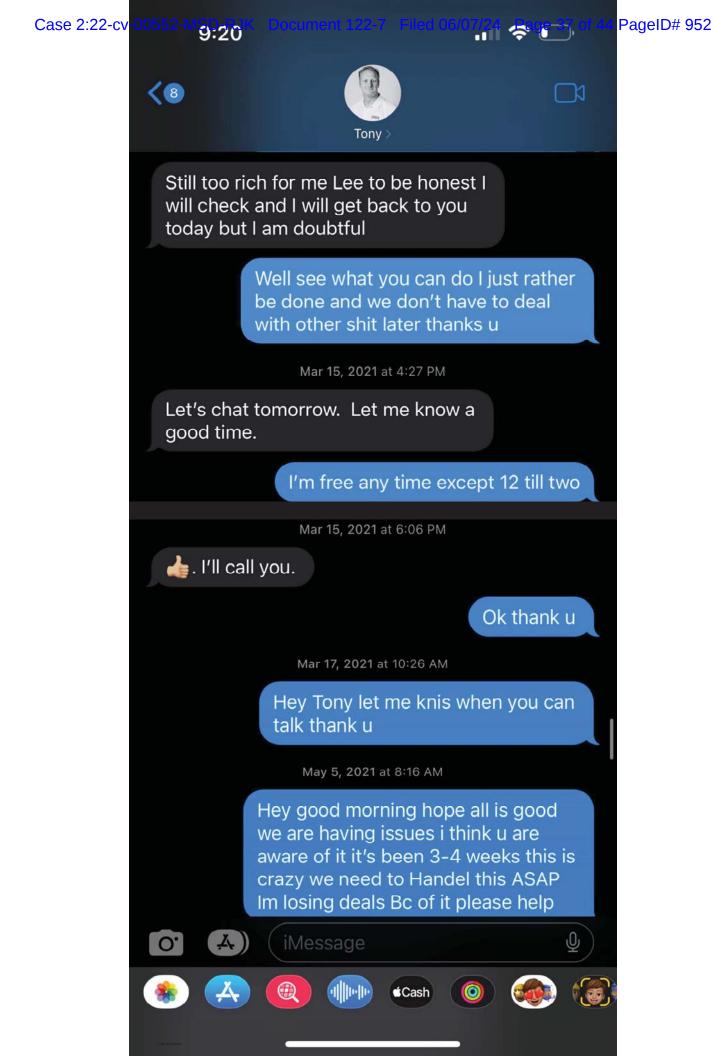


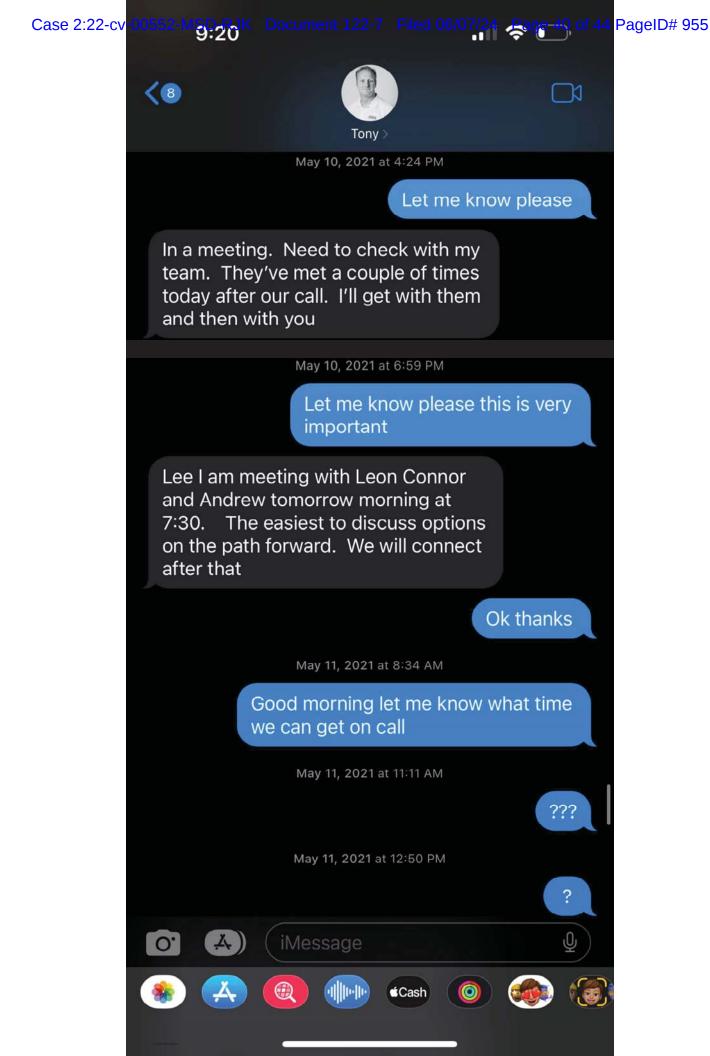












Tony:

Sorry for the delay Lee. The team met this morning and discussed a number of different options and opportunities with regards to your ME60. I've asked them to summarize based on activities timing and likelihood for success. I've asked for that to be summarized before in the business today We can then work on the recommendation after we've had a chance to share it with you

